



**Paul R. LePage**  
*Governor, State of Maine*

Paul K. Vestal, Chair  
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

## Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES  
June 27, 2012

### **I. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Mark Boger, Ned Chester, Jim Foss, Jacinda Goodwin, Carla Knapp, Margaret Longworth, Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, and Paul Vestal

**Absent:** Richard Brown, Abigail Comee-McCourt, Dalene Dutton, Jamie Johnson, Charles LaVerdiere, Randall Liberty, Joan McDonald, Hannah McMullen, Dan Nichols, Doug Patrick, and Patrick Walsh

**Staff:** Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist, Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor, Noël Bonam, DMC, Elaine Brann, Staff Assistant and Morgan Riley, Intern.

**Guest:** Susan Savell, Spurwink, MaryAnn Corsello, UNE, Erin Frati, Diversion to Assets Program, Margaret Micolichek, Restorative Justice and kt Crossman, Restorative Justice Intern

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10AM and welcomed JJAG members and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### **II. Minutes:**

The minutes for the May 23, 2012 JJAG meeting were approved.

**Motion:** To approve the May 23, 2012 Minutes

**Moved:** Jim Foss/Christine Thibeault/2nd

**Action:** Approved

### **III. Susan Savell, Spurwink and Maryann Corsello, Professor at UNE:**

Susan Savell thanked the JJAG for the opportunity to be here and for the support of JJAG for the development of the Diversion to Assets Program. Susan handed out a JABG Narrative for the Diversion to Assets Program and explained the highlights of the program as outlined in the narrative. Susan reported that thanks to OSA, they also received the Service to Science Award and a mini subcontract with SAMSA in order to do evaluation enhancement. Susan stated that at the end of her presentation she would just like to have a conversation with all JJAG members about next steps. Susan explained the Service to Science Award which will go through the middle of next year. Susan reported that it was a wonderful opportunity for several diversion programs in Maine and she is hoping to put together a system that really makes these strength based diversion opportunities available across the state. Susan stated that she and Margaret have been working on the possibility of a new research grant that will

study the restorative practices in schools. The application scored in the ninth percentile and it will probably be funded. Susan explained that this program will be a five year collaboration between the communities of children and youth and restorative practices and hopefully our diversion work. This will be early intervention for children between the ages of 9 to 19 with community organizers who connect with these kids and do a whole range of assessments. Susan then asked Maryann to explain the information and data that she prepared regarding the Diversion to Assets Program. This program has kept 226 juveniles out of the juvenile justice system this year.

Maryann Corsello handed out information that she prepared on the Diversion to Assets Program and gave a brief explanation on results of the program along with data and percentage information. Professor Corsello explained the pattern of results and indicated a decrease in risky and problematic behavior through restorative justice and problem solving programs. Maryann explained that these activities are after school programs, which is the time when most crimes occur. Maryann went over the highlights of her report and explained what the scoring system used in evaluating the effectiveness and results of the program.

#### **IV. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:**

Paul received a letter from Commissioner Mary Mayhew appointing Christine Theriault to represent DHHS. Paul reminded everyone of the Positive Youth Development Institute on July 23rd and 24th and stated that they would like to see some JJAG members there. Paul read an article from the newspaper in reference to the Department of Corrections juvenile division achieving the highest rating in the nation that looks at safety, security and other program areas in the corrections system. Paul read that the Performance Based Standards Organization in its 2012 rating gave Long Creek Youth Development Center a Level 4, which is the highest level, and Mountain Youth Development Center in Charleston achieved a Level 3. Paul congratulated Barry. Barry added that based on that press release, he received a call from a Mr. Jeff Clark from Downeast Magazine who is very interested in doing an article regarding this achievement. Paul also read another article in the newspaper regarding the prison in Warren and how they have decreased their special units as it pertains to discipline. Paul also read an article regarding the Supreme Court Ruling on juvenile inmates who were found guilty of a number of various crimes and who got natural life with no ability for parole. Paul stated that this has all been overturned and now their sentences are going to be reviewed. Christine and Ned further clarified the meaning of this ruling as it relates to mandatory sentences of juveniles.

#### **V. Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:**

Kathryn asked for suggestions for the September JJAG meeting and mentioned that we are due to go to Long Creek in September. It was agreed that Long Creek would be a good place, but other suggestions were made including schools, juvenile regional offices and possibly one of our Indian Nations or maybe even a night meeting to

include some parents. Barry was asked about meeting in one of the regional offices. Barry agreed that it was a good idea, but space was an issue as some of the regional offices were small. Kathryn wrote down some of these suggestions and it was agreed that this would be taken up for further discussion at the next Executive Meeting. Paul suggested that we set up to go to Long Creek for our next meeting in September.

Kathryn spoke about the grant funding and the JJ Specialist meeting with all of the CJJ representatives and stated that the first thing they heard was not to expect more funding for next year. Kathryn also stated that everyone is concerned about meeting all of the requirements from OJJDP. Kathryn explained that a certain percentage needs to be put out for Requests for Proposals and there are also the four core requirements that we must be in compliance with or we lose 20% of our funding if we are out of compliance. Kathryn gave a synopsis of what would likely happen to our money if we were out of compliance stating that 20 % of our funding would be at a loss of \$80,000 out of our \$400,000 leaving us with \$320,000, and of that \$320,000, one half must be used to correct the one requirement that we are out of compliance with, which leaves us with \$160,000 to do what JJAG normally does with \$400,000. Kathryn explained that we should seriously consider prioritizing what we're doing. A question was asked if we were out of compliance. Kathryn responded by assuring everyone that we were not, but stated that we need to make sure that we're not so that we do not lose any of our funding. Kathryn stated that we need to start looking at other sources of funds or grants that are out there. A question was asked what the four requirements are. Kathryn stated, deinstitutionalization of status offenders, jail removal, sight, sound separation and DMC.

Christine also gave an update on the Government Relations Committee that she attended at the CJJ Conference in Baltimore, as it pertains to the JJAG budget and stated that they are way more alarmed than the JJ Specialists because the JJ Specialists get their information from OJJDP, and the committee gets their information from the folks that are going on the "hill." Christine explained that the 2011 Budget Control Act did three things, for the Nation. It put in automatic cuts of one trillion dollars for discretionary spending, it created the Super Committee who were going to come together on another trillion dollar cuts in spending, and the third piece, that is the troubling part for us, is there is some sort of an automatic trigger pulled if the Super Committee doesn't reach consensus. Christine went on to explain that since it did not reach a consensus, the Budget Control Act states that if the Super Committee fails to reach a consensus, all nondefense discretionary spending will be cut at a rate of 8.5% per year over 10 years, automatic kicks in cuts. The only way to avoid those cuts is to amend the federal law and the folks on the "hill" are not giving much hope into any sort of agreement being reached in Congress to amend that law prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> when the cuts become effective. Christine stressed the importance of coming together and identifying some priorities of what we want to do with less money.

Paul suggested that this be discussed at the next July/August Executive Committee meeting.

Kathryn stated that she learned that there are discretionary funds from OJJDP and explained discretionary funds. Kathryn stated that they come from two sources, one is when states don't use all their money and if they get it back in time they can send it back out and that is called discretionary, if they don't get it back in time that is when the grant closes completely and it goes back into the general fund. Kathryn explained that OJJDP has discovered that the performance measures are not telling them anything. OJJDP is reorganizing and their plan is to work with other federal departments and philanthropic organizations. Kathryn mentioned the multi OJP site visits which is when financial people and programmatic people come and do site visits.

Kathryn spoke about the new application for training process through the NTTAC website and the STTAC. Kathryn stated that there are some major problems that need to be worked out.

Kathryn reported on the Casey Foundation has a new program which is diverting kids from jail and which may involve the Compliance Monitor and PREA. Kathryn was asked who was selected as the National JJ Specialist and responded that it was someone from Colorado. Kathryn stated that she lost by 6 votes and explained the voting process. Christine commented on information she received from speaking to Joe Vennutti who approached her and complimented the JJAG on the wonderful work that Kathryn has done and he stated that she was just a phenomenal asset to the JJ Specialists nationwide and that she works really hard.

#### **VI. CJJ Report – Christine Thibeault:**

Christine presented her update on the CJJ Conference she attended in Baltimore. Christine stated that the conference had some sort of a take home theme and reported on a couple of things. One was Youth Recruitment and Retention. Christine explained that there is a particular training for youth recruitment and retention and she would really like to bring some folks here to do that as it has been a challenge to get good youth members and keep them engaged. We as the JJAG need to do a better job at mentoring them and providing meaningful opportunities for their involvement in our system. Christine explained that the other theme was parental involvement and empowerment and stated that she didn't think we do as much as we could as far as reaching out to parents and getting them involved.

Christine stated that her proudest moment was when the Government Relations

Committee was discussing SORNA and Maine was acknowledged as one of the very few states that specifically excludes juveniles from the Sex Offender Registry. Christine gave an example of South Carolina who requires children as young as eight years old to register as sex offenders for life. Christine emphasized that CJJ is very important to support because that is our only voice. Christine gave examples of ideas that she picked up from other states and one idea was a booklet that Pennsylvania produced through Models for Change outlining the consequences of juvenile adjudication. Christine thought that would be something we could do. Another idea that Christine heard was that in some states they have family team meetings with the parents and the prosecutors prior to petitioning the case may divert the case from petitioning if they work with DHS or have other resources, they won't charge the sex crime or whatever the crime may be. It was a short conference but a lot of good information came out of it. Barry suggested that we think about a provision in the statute that allows for cause that it be allowed to be pushed back originally through family team meetings. Legislative/SAG Committee Meetings to meet with the three candidates to let them know who we are and how their support can be helpful.

**VII. DMC Update – Ned Chester:** Ned gave the JJAG a DMC update, since he was going to be presenting the JJAG with a \$49,000 DMC initiative which is Noel Bonam's salary. Ned stated that it was a lot of money, but the DMC Committee has done an enormous amount of work and that it is directly tied to the work that Noël Bonam has done. Ned went over some of DMC's accomplishments:

- Strategic planning committee meeting at Long Creek. Total of 27 people including three or four youth from Long Creek discussing what they had accomplished over the past year and priorities for the new year.
- Three working groups: Systems Improvement Work Group, Youth and Family Empowering Work Group, and the Diversions Work Group.
- Noel has a couple of youth groups going one in the community and one at Long Creek.
- Muskie's DMC report.

Ned presented the bill to the JJAG and asked for their approval.

**Motion:** Approval of \$49,810.00 for support of our DMC Coordinator

**Moved:** Ned Chester

**Action:** Approved/No opposition

Christine asked for clarification that if Noel changes jobs will he still be our DMC Coordinator even though he would no longer be working for Cobscook. Kathryn responded that he will still be working as our DMC Coordinator and that this contract will follow him and not stay with Cobscook.

Ned asked Kathryn to discuss Goodwill Industries of Northern New England

AmeriCorps Program funding. Kathryn stated the Juvenile Justice Implementation Council has working for it 8 district councils in eight regions of the state. They are doing the work prescribed by the Juvenile Justice Task Force which took place three years ago. What needs to happen now is that for those to continue, someone has to pay for the District Council AmeriCorps workers. This proposal from Susan Lieberman is for the JJAG do that, in the amount of \$24,600 in cash match to the AmeriCorps Program. That would be for hiring a full time person and providing benefits to do the District Council's work. We would only be paying for that part which is \$16,200 and with this we have the opportunity to have another AmeriCorps person to work 80% of the time on our DMC work. Kathryn explained that this information is listed on the packet you have under English Language Learners. So for \$24,000 the District Council can continue to do their work. There was further discussion on whether or not the JJAG wanted to support this initiative and it was decided to have further discussion at the next JIC Executive Committee Meeting. Kathryn will get more information from Susan but stressed the need to make a decision fairly quickly since they do their hiring in August. Kathryn will find out where Goodwill gets their money and if it turns out that everything is good with the cash match, we will have an executive meeting and if everything is okay, we will have a conference call vote.

Ned explained that in the past couple of years we asked Muskie to do some intensive work on Disproportionate Minority Contact identification and assessment. They have done that work and provided very good information. Ned proposed that we skip a year and instead ask Muskie that of that \$47,000 that we give them, they do a more intensive qualitative work with youth and families of color who come in contact with the system.

**Motion:** Authorize \$47,000 Contract with Muskie to do a Qualitative Assessment.

**Moved:** Ned Chester

**Action:** Approved/0 Opposed

### **VIII: Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 12: 20 P.M.

The next meeting will be September 26, 2012 at Long Creek Youth Development Center.